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S E C R E T MUSCAT 000441

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SUBJECT: EMBASSY MUSCAT EAC - 03/22/2006

REF: MUSCAT 0408

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires, a.i. William R. Stewart.
Reason: 1.4(c)(g).

Summary

¶1. (SBU) The Charge chaired a meeting of the core Emergency Action Committee (EAC) on March 22 to review the Embassy's security posture prior to the local weekend. Members noted no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting, and agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and force protection condition (FPCON) remain appropriate. End Summary.

Security Environment

¶2. (SBU) On March 22, the Charge chaired a meeting of the core EAC to review the Embassy's security posture prior to the local weekend. The meeting opened with a discussion of the local security situation, which the EAC continued to characterize as stable. Likewise, members cited no/no new threat reporting specific to Oman.

Physical Security

¶3. (C) RSO advised that his office is preparing for the first delivery of a total of 35 reinforced concrete jersey and planter barriers that will be placed at strategic points around the Chancery compound's perimeter. RSO noted that the barriers will serve to both significantly increase setback along the weakest point of the compound's east perimeter wall, and complement existing drop arms by further enhancing attack recognition.

Sustained Vigilance

¶4. (SBU) Prior to concluding the meeting, ARSO reiterated that, despite the relative calm, members of the EAC must continue reinforcing to both their staffs and family members the need for vigilance regarding all aspects of personal security - to include maintaining a low profile, and remaining unpredictable and situationally aware. ARSO further re-emphasized the importance of immediately reporting all suspicious activity or security-related incidents to Post One.

EAC Conclusion

¶5. (S/NF) The EAC concluded that there have been no substantive changes in the local security environment since the last meeting held on March 18. Accordingly, members agreed that the Embassy's already heightened security posture and FPCON remain appropriate. Embassy Muscat remains acutely aware of the need to monitor both the regional and local security and threat environments, and is prepared to take the necessary countermeasures should changes to either occur. CDA, P/E, MGT, RSO, ARSO, SIMO, PAO, DAO, OMC (USDR), and ECA (USCENTAF) participated in the meeting.
STEWART